

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 02146 081137Z
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 TRSE-00 DOE-01 EB-04 CIAE-00
INR-05 NSC-05 /037 W
-----129065 082241Z /66
R 081115Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8207

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 2146

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, US, TC
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE VISIT TO US BY UAE OIL MINISTER UTAYBA

REF: STATE 178748

1. UAE OIL MINISTER UTAYBA HAS INFORMED ME THAT HE WILL BE VISITING JAPAN DURING THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 25 TO 29. HE WOULD LIKE TO RETURN TO THE UAE VIA THE US AND COULD BE IN WASHINGTON DURING THE PERIOD OCTOBER 2 THROUGH 4. HE HAS ASKED IF THIS PERIOD MIGHT BE CONVENIENT TO MEET WITH SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL, SECRETARY SCHLESINGER, AND HOPEFULLY SECRETARY VANCE AS WELL AS MEET WITH A FEW SENATORS.

2. DRAWING ON INFORMATION CONTAINED REFTEL AND OUR OWN KNOWLEDGE OF WASHINGTON SCENE DURING BUSY FALL SEASON, I HAVE TOLD UTAYBA THAT CONGRESS WILL RECESS ON OCTOBER 7 FOR THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ARE LIKELY TO BE EXTREMELY BUSY IN THE LAST DAYS OF THE SESSION, PARTICULARLY ON MATTERS RELATING TO ENERGY LEGISLATION. HAVE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL MAY BE STILL VERY BUSY WITH THE AFTERMATH OF THE FUND/BANK MEETINGS HELD PREVIOUS WEEK. ALSO, THAT THERE IS GOOD POS-
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SIBILITY SECRETARY VANCE WILL BE TIED UP WITH BILATERALS AT UNGA AT THAT TIME. UNFORTUNATELY, UTAYBA SAYS HE CANNOT COME TO WASHINGTON IN MID-SEPTEMBER PERIOD WHICH WOULD BE MORE CONVENIENT FOR ALL CONCERNED.

3. WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT AGAIN MAKING INFORMAL SOUNDINGS RE ACCEPTABILITY OF UTAYBA VISIT DURING

OCTOBER 2 THROUGH 4 TIME FRAME. GIVEN UAEG'S RESPONSIBLE
ATTITUDE ON OPEC ISSUES, UTAYBA'S WILLINGNESS TO SPEAK
FRANKLY TO US ON OPEC DEVELOPEMENTS, AND FACT ABU DHABI WILL
BE FOCUS OF NEXT OPEC MEETING, WOULD HOPE DEPARTMENT WILL
GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THIS REQUEST. IF, HOWEVER,
IT CLEARLY SEEMS THAT TIMING IS NOT GOOD AND THAT PROGRAM
WHICH WILL GIVE UTAYBA HIGH LEVEL EXPOSURE TO STATE,
TREASURY AND ENERGY OFFICIALS AS WELL AS SOME MEMBERS OF
CONGRESS IS NOT PRACTICAL, I WILL CONVEY THIS TO HIM AND
DISCOURAGE HIS COMING TO WASHINGTON THIS YEAR.
DICKMAN

NOTE BY OC/T: DISSEMINATION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O - MR. R. SNIDER.

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OILS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ABUDH02146
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780324-1049
Format: TEL
From: ABU DHABI
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780885/aaaacsza.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 64fa6d66-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 178748
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1798817
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE VISIT TO US BY UAE OIL MINISTER UTAYBA
TAGS: ENRG, US, TC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/64fa6d66-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014